

FROM WINDSHIELD SURVEYS TO COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: THE VALUE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION

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HIGH IMPACT EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

- High impact practices such as community based learning and civic engagement opportunities have been noted to increase retention and satisfaction amongst students (NSSE, 2020).
- A key element to these programs is the opportunity to allow students to apply what they are learning out in the community and reflect on their experiences. Emphasis is placed on giving back to the community.
- In undergraduate nursing education, opportunities for exposure to community health nursing through first hand experiences can be challenging.

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BACKGROUND

- Focus on the AACN Essentials Domain 3: Population Health (AACN, 2021):
 - Manage population health
 - Engage in effective partnerships
 - Consider the socioeconomic impact in the delivery of health care
 - Advance equitable population health policy
 - Demonstrate advocacy strategies
 - Advance preparedness to protect population health during disasters and public health emergencies

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PURPOSE

- To develop and implement a community health nursing course for the undergraduate student that provides the opportunity for civic engagement while addressing the population health core competencies for baccalaureate education.

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- Understanding the unique health needs of the communities surrounding the university, emphasis was placed on allowing student groups to assess, develop, implement and evaluate an individualized community health intervention throughout the duration of the semester.

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL

- Undergraduate Core Curriculum: Civic Engagement Student Learning Outcomes:
 - Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to engage in community problem solving
 - Identify key arenas (local, national and/or global)of engagement and decision making
 - Identify the relationships between the course discipline and civic engagement
 - Demonstrate the skills to effectively participate in community and civic life

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WITHIN THE NURSING CURRICULUM

- Dimensions of Public Health Nursing: Selected Student Learning Outcomes:
 - Work effectively in a group to identify, locate and analyze assessment components defining a community's health status.
 - Develop a creative initiative to address an objective of the Healthy People agenda for a selected population.
 - Collaborate with consumers, health team members and others to implement strategies for improvement of health care amongst vulnerable populations.

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DIMENSIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING: NUR4251

- Working in groups of 3-4, students were partnered with a community liaison from community-based agencies, public health departments, school systems, and volunteer organizations surrounding the university.
- Students completed a windshield survey of their assigned community and developed a comprehensive community assessment that was shared with the liaison.
- Students met regularly with the community liaison to develop a proposal to address a population health concern.
- During the final weeks of the semester, students implemented their community project to the target population.
- A reflection paper allowed students the opportunity to evaluate their experiences.

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NUR4251: EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

- Health education program related to bicycle safety for Spanish speaking migrant workers in a rural community
- Information sessions related to vaping cessation during physical education classes at a regional highschool
- Public service radio and television advertisements created to encourage participation in local health needs assessment for senior citizens
- Healthy food choices for low income residences in an inner city housing development
- Stress management techniques for college students through the campus health and wellness center

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RESULTS

- Student course end evaluations
 - Overall satisfaction with the course and valued the opportunity to develop partnerships with the community
 - Recognized the importance of community health nursing
 - Appreciation for the public health care system
- Community liaison survey
 - Valued the students' creativity and professionalism in development of tailored programs
 - Appreciation for the opportunity to partner with undergraduate nursing students to make an impact
 - Recognition of the importance of role modeling

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CONCLUSIONS

- Engagement in high impact practices such as community-based learning allows students the opportunity to apply what they are learning in the classroom and to reflect on their experiences.
- Community partnerships are strengthened through these opportunities and the value of civic engagement is highlighted

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REFERENCES

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- National Survey of Student Engagement (2020). Center for Postsecondary Research, Indiana University School of Education.

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